



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Achieve with us.

January 2016

Chapter Spotlight

Asst. Exec Celebrates 35 Years at Arc/Morris



Gail Paradise, the Assistant Executive Director at The Arc/Morris, recently celebrated a big anniversary. To honor and recognize this wonderful achievement, we invite you to learn more about Gail and the career she has dedicated to helping people with I/DD.

1. What originally attracted you to The Arc family and what has kept you a part of it for 35 years?

I was two weeks shy of graduating from college with my degree in Recreational Therapy when I was offered a job. The Morris Unit as it was called back then was looking for someone to run their recreation program called McARP (Morris County Adaptive Recreational Program). I liked how the program was structured to collaboratively partner with municipal recreation

departments. Also, I was returning to Morris County after college so it seemed like a perfect fit. I was also pleased when I discovered I already knew a number of the individuals who attended the McARP program as they

News from the State House

In December, The Arc of New Jersey supported a number of bills making their way through the legislative process. It is important to note that any legislation not signed into law by January 11, 2016 will expire. That means that any pending bills will have to be reintroduced in the new legislative session, in both houses, and moved again through Committees and voting sessions.



With the January deadline approaching, the Governor will either sign or veto the bills on his desk. Among the legislative items awaiting action are bills that will impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. (To continue reading, click [here](#).)

had attended Camp Merry Heart where I had worked for several summers during college. **I have stayed with the agency because I just feel like this is where I am supposed to be. During my tenure at The Arc/Morris Chapter I have been offered opportunities for professional growth and learned so much from colleagues within our agency. Most importantly I feel I have been able to make a difference in the quality of life for many individuals and their families.** I am so grateful for everyone who I have come to know during my time here.

2. What moments stand out to you from your 35 year career? What's something you're most proud of?

What stands out are the connections I have made with the many individuals we have served. From a smile or a laugh to someone telling me how happy they are - these are the moments that stand out and make all of the hard work worthwhile.

I am most proud of how we managed to keep everyone safe and well cared for during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. It was definitely the most challenging two weeks of my tenure at The Arc/Morris. (To continue reading, click [here](#).)

To learn more about the programs and supports offered at The Arc/Morris, visit their [web site](#).

The Arc of NJ Hosts Upcoming Webinars

Podcasting

Introducing: The 'Let's Talk Series'

CONVERSATIONS BY FAMILIES,
FOR FAMILIES



Families caring for loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities can be a great source of knowledge and experience. With that in mind, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute invites you to listen in on the conversation by downloading or streaming one or all of the podcast episodes available now on our [web site](#).

Recent topics include:

1. A Parent's Perspective on Housing
2. A Parent's Perspective on Post-Secondary Education
3. Why Families Should Get Involved in Public Policy

Additional episodes are coming soon so check back often to ensure you're always part of the conversation.

Campus Tour

Explore the
Potential of College



(Self-Advocate Kevin White was a featured speaker for a recent Planning for Adult Life Webinar entitled: "Preparing Your Student to be a Self-Advocate with Medical Professionals." If you missed this webinar, be sure to check out the [archived video](#).)

Register today for these important information sessions:

Transition from School to Adult Life: Transition IEPs for Students 14 and Older

Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Hinkle, Fingles & Prior Attorneys at Law, this webinar is for families of students in special education aged 14 and older. Adam Wilson, Esq. of Hinkle, Fingles & Prior, Attorneys at Law will describe the nuts and bolts of transition planning for students between the ages 14 to 21, and will provide an overview of important considerations for every family. Issues will include curriculum considerations, community-based instruction, and preparation for adult life - college, jobs or day support.

[Monday, January 11 at 6:30 pm](#)

College Options for Students with I/DD

College can be a great option for students with I/DD but it takes planning. A growing number of programs offer varied opportunities to learn academic, career and independent living skills as they prepare for employment. This webinar aims to highlight various programs and to provide resources to help students and their families explore available possibilities. This webinar is hosted by Planning for Adult Life.

[Wednesday, January 20 at 6 pm](#)

Equal Justice Talks: Representing the Client with a



One of the goals for The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute is to

connect families and their college-aged students with information and resources related to life after high school. To help families understand what's available in a college setting, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute continues to host campus tours at local community colleges.

Previously, families have toured colleges in both Mercer and Somerset Counties and on February 26, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute will visit Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County.

This tour is an opportunity to hear more about the classroom and experiential learning options at Brookdale which were created through a collaboration with The Arc of Monmouth. The tour will take place on Friday, February 26 from 10 am to 12 pm. Please note that tours are limited to 15 families and spots fill up quickly. To register, click [here](#) and for additional information, click [here](#).

Help Us Keep

Developmental Disability

Hosted by the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP) of The Arc of New Jersey, this webinar will discuss the various issues which arise for attorneys when they are representing an individual with a developmental disability. This webinar will be presented by Jeanice Dagher-Margosian, Esq.

[Thursday, January 21 at 1 pm](#)

The Arc of NJ Strong!

The Arc of New Jersey relies on charitable contributions to continue our strong advocacy. Please help keep our efforts moving forward by making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey.

There are several ways you can help us:

1. Make a donation at www.arcnj.org.
2. If your company has a matching gift program, be sure to register your gift so you can double your contribution.
3. Make your donation count all year long by becoming a monthly Sustainer. All you have to do is note on your online donation that you would like it to be a monthly contribution.
4. Donate a vehicle by calling (877) 272-2270.
5. Shop through Amazon Smile. Simply select The Arc of New Jersey from the charities at Amazon Smile, and shop like you always do at Amazon.

Upcoming DDD Webinars

Overview and Live Q&A: The Division of Developmental Disabilities

This webinar aims to assist students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and school personnel in understanding the DDD system and how to prepare to access needed services after exiting the school system. Covered topics will include information about DDD eligibility, avenues of funding, Support Coordination, services, and the process for connecting with providers. Parents groups, schools, providers, and other stakeholders are encouraged to host events/meetings during the dates of this webinar to assist in sharing the information with their peers and colleagues.

Hosted by Jennifer Joyce, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Director of the Supports Program and Employment Services.

- **January 19, 2016, 10:00 AM**
- **February 25, 2016, 6:30 PM**

To register, click [here](#).

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